Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method ~~of determining a similarity of a first string and a second string~~ comprising:

calculating a Levenshtein matrix of ~~said~~ a first string and ~~said~~ a second string;

determining a Levenshtein distance from said Levenshtein matrix; ~~and~~

determining a largest common substring from said Levenshtein matrix; and

determining a similarity between a set of characters in said first string and a set of characters in said second string as a function of said Levenshtein distance and said largest common substring.

2. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein determining a largest common substring from said Levenshtein distance matrix comprises determining a longest diagonal of equal hamming distances of a lowest value.

3. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising calculating a Levenshtein score.

4. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising determining the length of the largest common substring.

5. (Original) The method according to Claim 4, further comprising calculating a largest common substring score.

6. (Currently Amended) A method ~~of determining a similarity of a first string and a second string~~ comprising:

calculating a Levenshtein matrix of ~~said~~ a first string and ~~said~~ a second string;

determining a Levenshtein distance from said Levenshtein matrix;

determining a largest common substring from said Levenshtein ~~distance~~ matrix;

calculating a Levenshtein score as a function of said Levenshtein distance; ~~and~~

calculating a largest common substring score as a function of said largest common substring;

determining a similarity between a set of characters of said first string and a set of characters of said second string as a function of said Levenshtein score and said largest common substring score.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 6, further comprising calculating an acronym score of said first string and said second string.

8. (Original) The method according to Claim 7, further comprising calculating a weighted acronym score comprising a product of said acronym score and an acronym weight factor.

9. (Original) The method according to Claim 6, further comprising:

calculating a weighted Levenshtein score comprising a product of said Levenshtein score and a Levenshtein weight factor;

calculating a weighted largest common substring score comprising a product of said largest common substring score and a largest common substring weight factor; and

calculating a Levenshtein/largest common substring score comprising a sum of said weighted Levenshtein score and said weighted largest common substring score.

10. (Original) The method according to Claim 9, wherein a sum of said Levenshtein weight factor and said largest common substring weight factor is equal to one.

11. (Original) The method according to Claim 9, further comprising calculating a first weighted numerical score comprising a product of said Levenstein/largest common substring score and a string weight factor.

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 11, further comprising:

calculating an acronym score of said first string and said second string;

calculating a weighted acronym score comprising a product of said acronym score and an acronym weight factor; and

calculating a second weighted numerical score comprising a sum of said first weighted numerical score and said weighted acronym score.

13. (Original) The method according to Claim 12, wherein a sum of said string weight factor and said acronym weight factor is equal to one.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium containing one or more sequences of instructions which when executed by a computing device cause the computing device to implement a method for determining a similarity ~~of a first string and a second string~~ comprising:

calculating a Levenshtein matrix of a first string and a second string;

determining a Levenshtein distance from said Levenshtein matrix;

determining a largest common substring from said Levenshtein matrix

calculating a Levenshtein score ~~of said first string and said second string~~ as a function of said Levenshtein distance;

calculating a largest common substring score ~~of said first string and said second string~~ as a function of said largest common substring; and

calculating a first numerical score as a function of said Levenshtein score and said largest common substring score, wherein said first numerical score is a first quantification of a similarity between a set of characters of said first string and a set of characters of said second string.

15. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium according to Claim 14, wherein calculating said Levenshtein score comprises~~:~~

~~calculating a Levenshtein matrix of said first string and said second string;~~

~~determining a Levenshtein distance from said Levenshtein matrix; and~~

subtracting the resultant of dividing said Levenshtein distance by an average of a length of said first string and a length of said second string from one.

16. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium according to Claim 14, wherein calculating said largest common substring score comprises:

determining a length of ~~a~~ said largest common substring from said Levenshtein matrix; and

dividing said length of said largest common substring by an average of a length of said first string and a length of said second string.

17. (Original) The computer-readable medium according to Claim 14, wherein calculating said first numerical score comprises:

calculating a weighted Levenshtein score comprising a product of said Levenshtein score and a Levenshtein weight factor;

calculating a weighted largest common substring score comprising a product of said largest common substring score and a largest common substring weight factor; and

summing said weighted Levenshtein score and said weighted largest common substring score.

18. (Original) The computer-readable medium according to Claim 14, further comprising:

calculating an acronym score; and

calculating a second numerical score as a function of said first numerical score and said acronym score.

19. (Original) The computer-readable medium according to Claim 18, wherein calculating said second numerical score comprises:

calculating a weighted Levenshtein score comprising a product of said Levenshtein score and a Levenshtein weight factor;

calculating a weighted largest common substring score comprising a product of said largest common substring score and a largest common substring weight factor;

calculating a Levenshtein/largest common substring score comprising a sum of said weighted Levenshtein score and said weighted largest common substring score;

calculating a weighted Levenshtein/largest common substring score comprising a product of said Levenshtein/largest common substring score and a Levenshtein/largest common substring weight factor;

calculating a weighted acronym score comprising a product of said acronym score and an acronym score weight factor; and

summing said weighted Levenshtein/largest common substring score and said weighted acronym score.

20. (Original) The computer-readable medium according to Claim 19, further comprising:

utilizing said first numerical score for determining said similarity, when said first string and said second string comprise numerical-type strings; and

utilizing said second numerical score for determining said similarity, when said first string or said second string comprise character-type strings.